



Partnership Rapid City, 10 Van Buren Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Press Release

Civic Center Renovations - Rapid City Students Voice Their Opinions

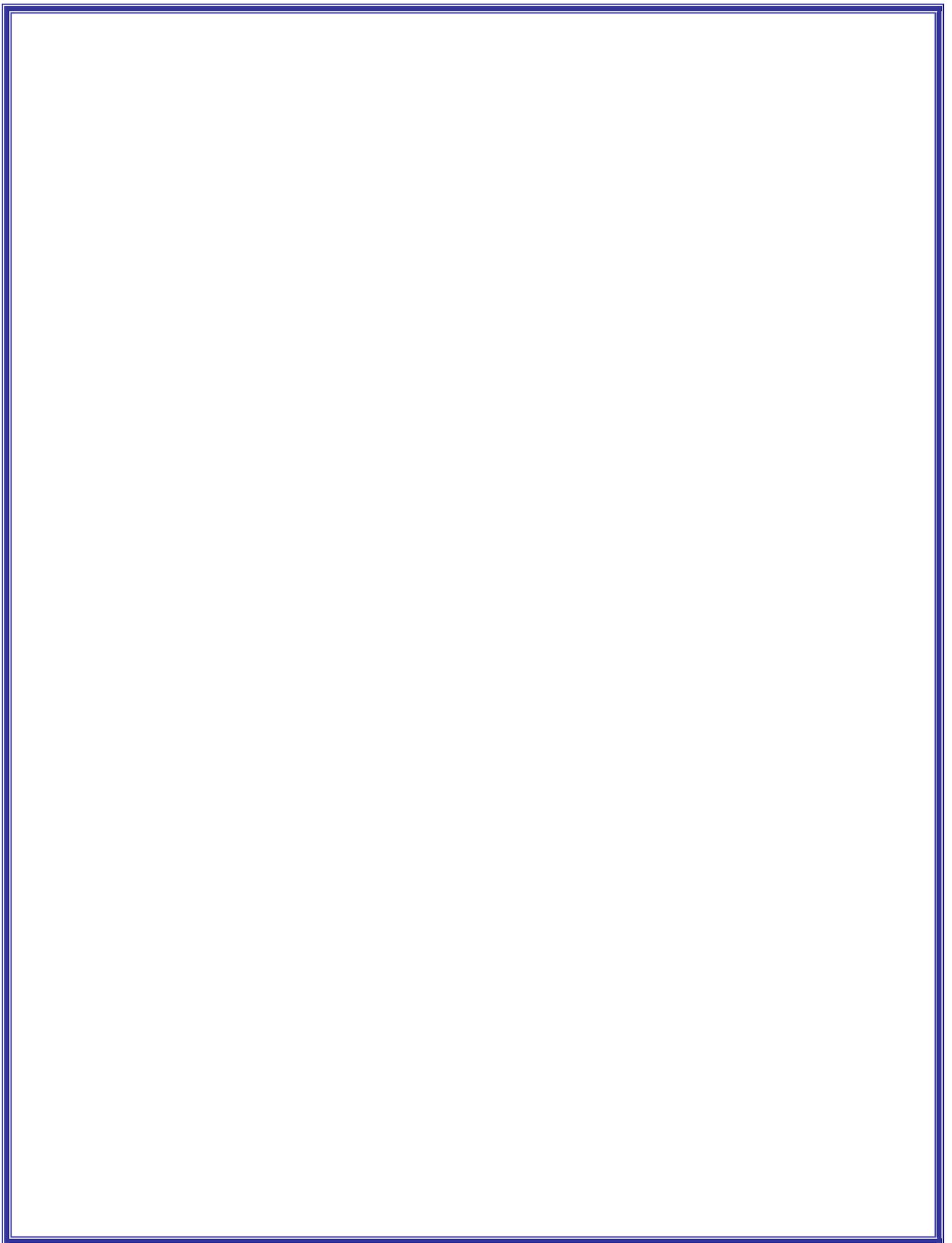
Rapid City, SD ---- Last Thursday, a group of six high school students from Stevens, Central and St.Thomas More shared the 'youth voice' with the Civic Center Future Committee. Jason Samuelson, Noah Storm, Abby Walz, of Stevens, Jordan Cecil and Carly Ellingson from Central, and Mason Grimshaw from St. Thomas More weighed in on this hot topic, sharing their findings after nearly three months of meetings and research.

Lloyd LaCroix and Dave Davis, members of the Civic Center Future Committee, along with Jayne Kraemer, Assistant General Manager of the Civic Center facilitated the student group through the process. The group began meeting in mid-February, toured the civic center in a wheel chair in order to understand the ADA issues within Barnett Arena, and participated in a SWOT Analysis identifying the Civic Center's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. After laying this groundwork, the student group created a survey which was administered to over 160 students in two separate groups – those who received an informational presentation about the issue and those who did not.

Their survey findings indicated that over 70% of them attend an event at Civic Center at least every 2-3 months. The most attended events included sporting events, concerts, theatre and school events. Many survey respondents indicated that they attend concerts and sports events in larger cities. In both survey groups, the ADA issue dominated as the biggest concern facing Barnett Arena. Both survey groups also indicated that a parking ramp would be beneficial to the Civic Center, and that it is important for Rapid City to stay competitive in hosting state events.

“ This is an example of how very capable our young people are. They are not intimidated by delving into difficult issues, doing their research and sharing their findings in the adult world. These young people will be the 'end user' of the civic center, and will also be paying for it as wage earners and consumers,” stated Liz Hamburg, Partnership Rapid City, who helped to identify the students for this opportunity.

For more information, please contact Liz Hamburg, Partnership Rapid City, 605-431-9876 or Liz.Hamburg@k12.sd.us.



Reach One! Teach One!